

CDC

THE THING

WEIRD TALES OF SUSPENSE AND HORROR

No 15

THE

THING!

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

10¢





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

In 10 Minutes of **FUN** a day I changed myself

Now, Buddy **YOU**

Mail the
Coupon below
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May be **LAST**
CHANCE be-
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GET ALL THESE
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PACKED
COURSES
5
FREE

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Millions
have
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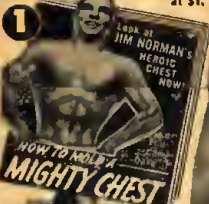
Ken
GRIMM
AFTER
MAILING
COUPON

from this
Bloodless, Pitiful
SKINNY
SHRIMP

to
this

NEW MUSCULAR
RED-BLOODED
HEAD-TO-TOE
HE-MAN!

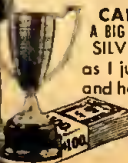
Ken Grimm **BEFORE**
mailing
coupon



NOT friend you don't have to be **SKINNY, WEAK or FLABBY** any more
just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did.
Besides getting **ALL 5** Courses (pictured on this page) **FREE** (**MILLIONS**
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and **BOYS** who were **WEAKLINGS** like you **BEFORE** mailing coupon. **SOLED FOR \$1.**
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SILVER CUP
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\$100.

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JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
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Dear George: Please mail to me Jowett's Photo Book of
Strong Men and a Muscle Meter. Please add 5 of Best Building
Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest 2. How to Build a
Mighty Arm 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip 4. How to Build
a Mighty Back 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. How all in One
Book. How to become a Mighty All Star. ENCLOSED \$1.00 for
POSTAGE AND HANDLING (No C.O.D.'s)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
MAIL NOW! SAVES YOU YEARS and DOLLARS!

THE THING

OUT OF THE MICROSCOPIC DEEP IT CAME--
THIS TERRIBLE, HUNGRY MUTANT WORM
THAT ATE EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH. AND
THOSE WHO TRIED STOPPING IT WERE
DISSOLVED IN THE SICKLY OOZE OF
DEATH! WHAT WAS THE HORROR
THAT NORMAN THOMA HAD UNLEASHED
ON THE WORLD? HOW COULD
IT BE CONQUERED? HOW
INDEED-- WHEN---

THE WORM TURNS

AS TOLD BY
The Thing



THE PROFESSOR HELD
THE MEDICAL CLASS
IN RAPT ATTENTION
AS HE DESCRIBED THE
ORIGIN OF THE WORLD!
IT WAS THE LECTURE
THAT BEGAN THE
HIDEOUS HORROR
OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN!



LIFE IS AN EVER-
CONSTANT BATTLE FOR
THE SURVIVAL OF THE
FITTEST! EACH OF US
HAS BATTLED COUNT-
LESS VIRUSES,
BACTERIA AND GERMS
IN ORDER TO
LIVE!



"BUT PICTURE TO
YOURSELF THE
WORLD AS IT
EXISTED MILLIONS
OF YEARS AGO--
WHERE SAVAGE

BEASTS ATE SAVAGE
BEASTS--AND
NONE BUT THE
MOST VICIOUS
SURVIVED...



THE THING

ON SEA--ON LAND--EVERYWHERE
GIGANTIC CREATURES FOUGHT AND
BLED AND DIED TO GAIN A FEW MOMENTS
OF PRECIOUS LIFE ON THE WORLD...

AND EVERYWHERE,
THE BALANCE OF
LIFE KEPT CONSTANT.
NO ONE SPECIES
MULTIPLIED TO
COMPLETELY OVER-
WHELM THE WORLD.
INSECTS FOUND
THEIR NATURAL
ENEMIES IN BIRD
AND MAN... AND
THE WORLD EVOLVED
NORMALLY...



MEDICAL
STUDENTS
NORMAN
THOMA
AND JANE
WELLEN
WALKED
OUT
OF THE
LECTURE
VERY
THOUGHT-
FUL AND
DUMBER...

JUST IMAGINE! TAKE AWAY THE
CHECKS AND BALANCE OF A
SPECIES AND IT CAN PROPO-
GATE TO THE POINT OF
KILLING EVERYTHING ELSE
ON THE EARTH!

IF ONLY WE COULD
CREATE SUCH A SPECIES,
JANE, WE COULD DISCOVER
THE SECRET OF LIFE!



WHY--
HOW
COULD
THAT
BE?



CONTROLLING
SUCH A
SPECIES CAN
ENABLE
ANYONE TO
CONTROL
LIFE. IF
LIFE IS
CONTROLLED,
WE CAN
WIPE OUT
CANCER,
ELIMINATE
DEATH--
GAIN
IMMORTALITY!

AND THAT WAS NORMAN THOMA'S FIRST CONTACT WITH THE IDEA.
TEN YEARS LATER, A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH SCIENTIST, HE BEGAN
HIS EXPERIMENTS TO FIND SUCH A SUPER-SPECIES!

I'LL BEGIN BY SELECTING THE ONLY ORGANISM
CAPABLE OF UNSPECIFIED PHYSIOLOGY--THE
AMOEBAS. NO OTHER ORGANISM CAN
SURVIVE UNDER THE CONDITIONS
THE AMOEBAS CAN!



JANUARY 4... HAVE ELIMINATED ALL FORMS
OF AMOEBAS BUT ONE--A LARGE GIANT TYPE
THAT SEEMS TO THRIVE ON ORGANIC
MATERIAL OF PUTREFACTION. AM ADDING
GROWTH LIQUID TO MUTATE ORGANISM...



THE THING

MARCH 9--HAVE MOVED TO LARGE DESERTED HOUSE ON HILL--IDEAL PLACE TO CONDUCT MY EXPERIMENTS. ORGANISM HAS GROWN ANOTHER THREE MILLIMETERS. AM EXPECTING BETTER RESULTS...

CRACK

MAY 26-- HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TRANSFERRING ORGANISM INTO NUTRIENT VAT. ORGANISM HAS TAKEN SHAPE OF SMALL EARTH WORM. WILL ADD CAREFULLY-REGULATED VOLTAGE FOR EFFECT...

NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING. MAYBE I'M ON THE WRONG TRACK.

SEPTEMBER 14--SUCCESS! AT LEAST --FROM THIS PATH OF RESEARCH. ORGANISMS ARE MULTIPLYING AGAIN BUT NOT GROWING. VOLTAGE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE ANSWER...

MAYBE IF I ARRANGED THE COSMIC BOMBARDMENT TO INCLUDE ULTRA-VIOLET! IT'S A GOOD CHANCE!

NOVEMBER 3...AFTER 1005 EXPERIMENTS TO CONTROL THE DEGREE OF ULTRA-VIOLET CONCENTRATION, HAVE ESTABLISHED RATIO TO CORRECT AMOUNT. AM PROCEEDING AS PLANNED.

THEY'RE GROWING IN SIZE. I'VE DISCOVERED ONE OF THE STEPS TO LIFE! NOW I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT THEY'RE INVULNERABLE!



AND ONE AFTER-NOON WHILE THE SCIENTIST WORKED, THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENED, AND...

NORMAN! I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

JANE: WHAT DO YOU WANT? GET OUT OF HERE. I'M BUSY!

I PLANNED TO VISIT YOU, THEN I HEARD WILD RUMORS ABOUT THE WORK YOU WERE DOING. IS IT-- TRUE?

YES! I'VE SUCCEEDED BEYOND MY WILDEST EXPECTATIONS! I'VE CREATED A SUPER-SPECIES CAPABLE OF RESISTING ANY GERM, VIRUS OR ANIMAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! WATCH!

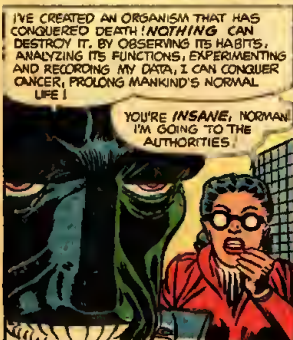


THE THING



UGH! IT'S HORRIBLE! YOU'VE CREATED A FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER!

YOU'RE WRONG-- DEAD WRONG!



I'VE CREATED AN ORGANISM THAT HAS CONQUERED DEATH! **NOTHING** CAN DESTROY IT. BY OBSERVING ITS HABITS, ANALYZING ITS FUNCTIONS, EXPERIMENTING AND RECORDING MY DATA, I CAN CONQUER CANCER, PROLONG MANKIND'S NORMAL LIFE!

YOU'RE *INSANE*, NORMAN! I'M GOING TO THE AUTHORITIES!



YOU'LL...DO... NO...SUCH... THING!

LET GO! YOU'RE... CHOKING ME...! CAN'T BREATHE...! URGHH-H...



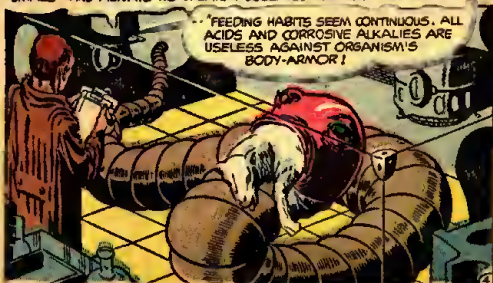
MOMENTS LATER, A SHATTERED MAN WAS SOBBING OVER THE SILENT BODY OF HIS VICTIM...

GOOD LORD!.. WHAT...HAVE ...I DONE ? I'VE ... KILLED ! I'VE KILLED !



BUT I KILLED SO THAT HUMANITY COULD BE BENEFITED! I CAN'T BE STOPPED NOW! AND I'VE GOT JUST THE WAY TO GET RID OF HER!

THE WORM-ORGANISM NOW BEGAN TO ACCELERATE IN GROWTH. ITS HUNGER WAS INSATiable. IT'S MAN DEVoured DOZENS OF CREATURES--BIG AND SMALL--AND ALWAYS ITS CREATOR OBSERVED AND TOOK NOTES...



FEEDING HABITS SEEM CONTINUOUS. ALL ACIDS AND CORROSIVE ALKALIES ARE USELESS AGAINST ORGANISM'S BODY-ARMOR!

GRRRRPP
GRRP

THE THING

SOON...NORMAN THOMA HAD TO FEED IT LARGER AND LARGER PORTIONS. THE WORM-MONSTER DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR RED MEAT--JUICY, FRESH MEAT THAT THE SCIENTIST HAD TO SNEAK TO THE HOUSE ALMOST EVERY DAY...

LET'S FOLLOW THAT BIRD! I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'S GOT SOMETHING COOPED UP THERE! AND I WANT TO SEE WHAT IT IS!

THEY FOUND OUT! GOOD LORD!

FOR THERE--INSIDE THE CELLAR, TOWERED A HORROR THAT KNEW NO COMPARISON!

NO! NOT YET--! DON'T DO IT! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH MY EXPERIMENTS. YOU'LL DESTROY THE SECRET OF LIFE, YOU FOOLS!

I'LL KILL AGAIN IF I MUST! I'LL-- AGHHHH!

GET BACK, MISTER! YOU'RE NUTS!

BLAM BLAM

CALL THE SQUAD! ALERT ALL THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN TOWN! THIS--THING--IS TOO LARGE FOR US TO HANDLE!

KILL IT, DAN! HURRY--!

BUT ONWARD CAME THE SLITHERING MENACE-- EATING, CRUSHING, DEVOURING ALL-- INVULNERABLE TO ANYTHING MAN-MADE!



THE NATIONAL GUARDS, ARMY AND COMBINED ATTACK UNITS OF THE NATION CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE MONSTER-- BUT TO NO AVAIL!

ORDER A RETREAT! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME!



THE THING

MANKIND RALLIED
AGAINST THE
WORM --- AND
REELED BACK--
DEFEATED!
CITIES--MIGHTY
FORTRESSES
AGAINST SAVAGERY
---TOPPLED TO
THE GROUND!

FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES! THE
WORM HUNTS FOR HUMANS!

LIFE CAME TO FULL CYCLE--
THE WORM DIVIDED--MULTI-
PLIED--PRODUCED MYRIADS
OF DUPLICATES. AND THOSE
DUPLICATES ATE AND GREW
LARGER STILL --

THE HYDROGEN BOMB,
MICROBE WARFARE,
NEW WEAPONS,
SCIENTIFIC GADGETS--
ALL PROVED HOPELESS
--AND FINALLY THE
WORM FACED MAN-
KIND ON ITS LAST
STAGE OF DEFENSE!

AND IN TIME, THE WORMS COMBINED INTO ONE GIANT
WORM THAT COVERED THE GLOBE LIKE A FAT SLUG
FEASTING ON VEGETATION, MINERAL--THE LAST DEN-
ZEN OF A FALLEN PLANET ...

WE'LL ALL DIE! WE'RE
THE LAST HUMANS ON
EARTH!

THERE'S
GOT TO BE
ANOTHER WAY TO
SURVIVE! THERE
HAS TO BE!

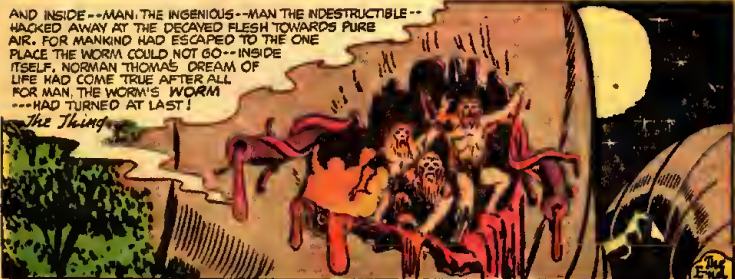


FOR COUNTLESS EONS THE WORM CONTINUED FEEDING
AND GROWING UNTIL LAYER COVERED LAYER--AND
BULK PRODUCED BULK, THEN --ONE MORNING--A
GREAT TUMOR-LIKE GROWTH APPEARED UNDERNEATH
THE WORM'S SKIN--GNAWING, DEVOURING ---
DESTROYING!



AND INSIDE--MAN, THE INGENIOUS--MAN THE INDESTRUCTIBLE--
HACKED AWAY AT THE DECAYED FLESH TOWARDS PURE
AIR. FOR MANKIND HAD ESCAPED TO THE ONE
PLACE THE WORM COULD NOT GO--INSIDE
ITSELF. NORMAN THOMAS' DREAM OF
LIFE HAD COME TRUE AFTER ALL
FOR MAN, THE WORM'S WORM
---HAD TURNED AT LAST!

The Thing



THE THING

THOSE WHO KNEW HIM CALLED JABEZ GRIMM A TIGHT-FISTED SKINFUNT... A CADAVEROUS OLD TIGHTWAD WHO PINCHED A COIN SO HARD THE METAL FOREVER AFTER BORE HIS FINGERPRINT! WHILE HIS SHIPBUILDING YARD MADE HIM RICH, HIS WORKERS WALLOWED IN THE BITTEREST POVERTY. AND SO, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT FINALLY THERE SHOULD COME A GRISLY...

DAY OF RECKONING!

as told by The Thing



THE THING

WE AIM TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO US, MR. GRIMM! YOUR POCKETS ARE BULGING WITH MONEY... YOU'RE NOT GONNA CHEAT US!

NOT ANOTHER CENT WILL YOU GET! CLEAR OUT OF MY SHIPYARD RIGHT NOW... IF I CALL THE POLICE IT'LL GO MIGHTY HARD WITH YOU! **GET OUT!**

T-TAKE YOUR GRIMY HANDS OFF ME, YOU CUT-THROATS! I'LL SEE TO IT YOU'RE ALL THROWN INTO PRISON FOR THIS!

OWWWWW!
W-WATCH OUT FOR THOSE NAILS OF HIS... THEY'RE LIKE KNIVES!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! IT'S THE WHIPPING POST, THEN MEBBE THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE!

TRUSS 'IM UP GOOD AND TIGHT, BOYS! THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY HERE TO SPUT THREE WAYS AND STILL MAKE A TIDY BUNDLE FOR EACH OF US! AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW WE CAN KEEP THE OLD BUZZARD QUIET... FOR GOOD!

FOLLOWING CORNELIUS WATSON'S INSTRUCTIONS, JABEZ GRIMM WAS LIFTED TOWARD THE UNFINISHED PART OF THE MERMAID'S HULL. THE SAILMAKER, HORATIO DARRROW, HURRIED TOWARD THEM, A STRANGE GLUTTER IN HIS EYES...

Y-YOU'LL DIE FOR THIS!
I PUT MY CURSE ON YOU!

N-NO...NOT THE NEEDLE...
AGHHH!

AS YOU TREAT OTHERS SEW SHALL YOU REAP! THIS'LL SILENCE YOU FOREVER, DEVIL!

THE OLD MAN'S LIPS WERE QUICKLY SEALED WITH THE ROUGH SAIL THREAD, THEN THE HAMMERS CLANGED --- SEALING JABEZ GRIMM INTO HIS GROTESQUE TOMB...

THAT'S IT, BOYS... NAIL 'IM IN GOOD AND TIGHT! THE MERMAID'S DUE TO BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW... THIS IS THE LAST ANY LIVING SOUL WILL EVER SEE OF HIM!

THE THING

JABEZ GRIMM'S STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE WASN'T NOTED FOR A WEEK. BY THAT TIME THE THREE WORKERS HAD GONE THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. SAM BRAY, CURIOUSLY, SIGNED ON AS SEAMAN ABOARD THE MERMAID.

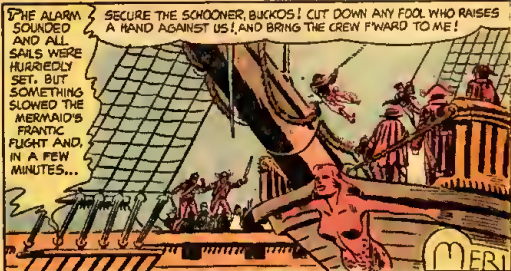
A MONTH LATER...



SAIL ON THE HORIZON!
IT LOOKS LIKE... IT IS A PIRATE SHIP!



THE ALARM SOUNDED AND ALL SAILS WERE HURRIEDLY SET, BUT SOMETHING SLOWED THE MERMAID'S FRANTIC FLIGHT AND, IN A FEW MINUTES...



SECURE THE SCHOONER, BUCKOS! CUT DOWN ANY FOOL WHO RAISES A HAND AGAINST US! AND BRING THE CREW F'WARD TO ME!

YOU'RE ALL SMART TO JOIN MY MEN... WE CAN ALL MAKE OUR FORTUNES BY MARAUDING THE SEAS! WELCOME, NEW CREW MEMBERS!

HE'S GONNA SPARE OUR LIVES, BUT I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT WEIRD CACKLING LAUGH I KEEP HEARING! I-I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARS IT...



T-THAT CRAZY LAUGH... IT'S GETTING LOUDER! W-WHY CAN'T ANYONE ELSE... AGHHH!

THE ANCHOR... CHAIN... IT'S UNWINDING! NO ONE TOUCHED IT YET... YET...



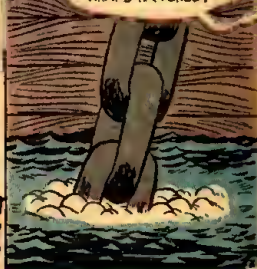
H-HELP... YIIII!

G-GOOD LORD... THE POOR DEVIL'S DONE FOR, DRAGGED DOWN BY THE ANCHOR! S-SAY... DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE A CRAZY LAUGH?

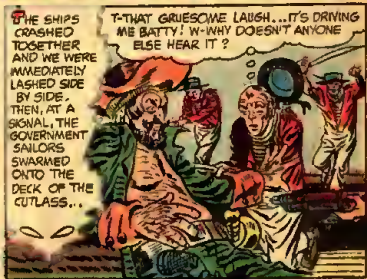
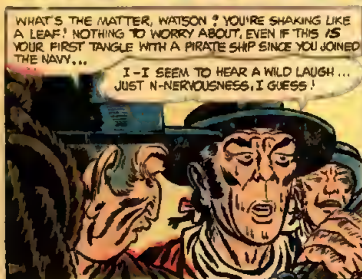


I-I'D ALMOST SWEAR IT SOUNDED LIKE...

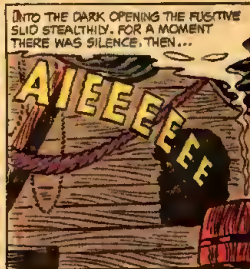
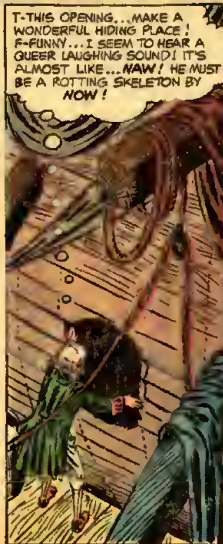
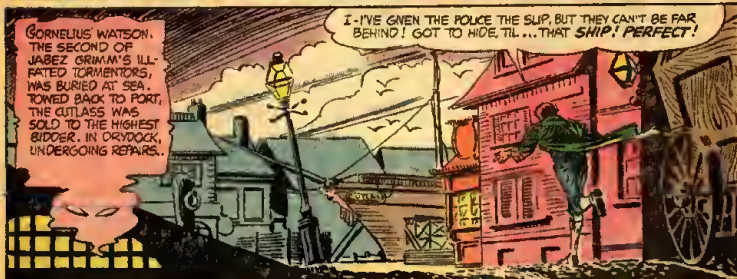
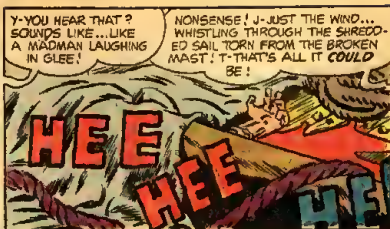
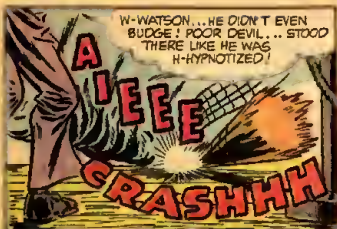
NOW! JUST YOUR NERVES, FRIEND! A TERRIBLE THING LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH TO RATTLE ANYONE! THAT NOISE... JUST THE BUMPING OF THE CHAIN AS IT SLID INTO THE SEA! LET'S HAVE SOME RUM... AND FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENED!



THE THING



THE THING



THE THING

HURRY UP...
SOMETHING'S
TRAPPED
IN THERE

THE SCREAMING
STOPPED...M-MEBBE
WE'RE TOO LATE!
QUICK...HACK AWAY
AT THE REST OF THE
HULL TIMBERS



5-SEEMS TO BE A BODY IN THERE!
IT...IT'S FALLING OUT!



GOOD LORD! IT'S
A MAN...HIS HEAD'S
NEARLY TORN FROM
HIS BODY! M-MUST'VE
HAPPENED JUST NOW
...THE POOR BEGGAR'S
BLOOD IS STILL
FLOWING!



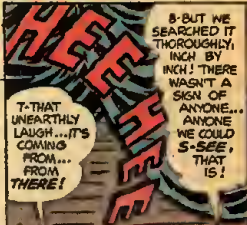
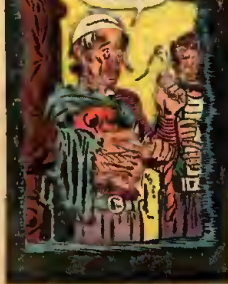
THE DEAD MAN IS HORATIO DARROW,
ACCORDING TO THESE PAPERS IN
HIS POCKET HE'S JUST ESCAPED
FROM PRISON! CONVICT OR NOT,
HE'S BEEN MURDERED! QUICK! CLIMB
INTO THE HULL...DRAG OUT WHO-
EVER BUTCHERED HIM!



THE MOMENTS DRAGGED BY
INTERMINABLY, FOR THOSE WAITING
NERVOUSLY OUTSIDE. THEN, AT
LAST, THE TWO TREMBLING MEN
CLAMBERED OUT...

A-ALL I COULD
FIND IS THIS STINKING
PILE OF OLD CLOTHES...
MUST'VE BEEN ROTTING
DOWN THERE FOR A YEAR!

AND ALONGSIDE IT...A
LENGTH OF DECAYING ROPE,
AND A SAILMAKER'S NEEDLE
AND THREAD! NOTHING
ELSE!



B-BUT WE
SEARCHED IT
THOROUGHLY,
INCH BY
INCH! THERE
WASN'T A
SIGN OF
ANYONE...
ANYONE
WE COULD
S-SEE,
THAT
IS!

T-THAT
UNEARTHLY
LAUGH...IT'S
COMING
FROM...
FROM
THERE!



SAM BRAY, CORNELIUS WATSON, HORATIO
DARROW...ALL VICTIMS OF VIOLENT
DEATH, AS PROPHESED BY JABEZ GRIMM
COINCIDENCE? ACCIDENT? WE MAY NEVER
KNOW, 'TIL THE FINAL... DAY OF
RECKONING! *The*

THE THING

The Thing presents **COMEBACK!**

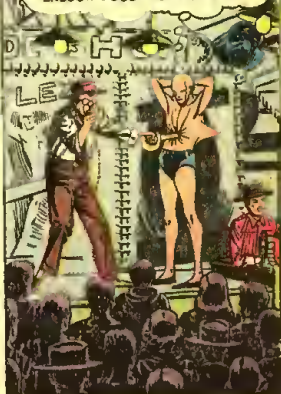
REMEMBER FLEKO, THE GROTESQUE LITTLE MAN WHOSE ENTIRE BODY WAS COMPOSED OF SOMETHING STRANGELY LIKE RUBBER? IF YOU FREQUENT TOURING CARNIVALS AND FREAK SHOWS YOU'VE GANKED AT HIM...UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY HE ENJOYED THE INTEREST OF MILLIONS OF MORBIDLY CURIOUS PEOPLE. EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS WEIRD CREATURE...WHAT POWER LURED HIM AWAY FROM THE WORLD OF SIDESHOWS? WELL...HEE HEE...HERE'S A HOT LITTLE YARN TO MELT YOUR HEART...

G-GOOD LORD...SHE MUST HAVE THOUSANDS IN GEMS IN THERE! ENOUGH TO GET ME OUT OF THIS LIFE...AWAY FROM THESE PRYING EYES AND IDIOTIC RUBES WHO THINK ME A FREAK! B-BUT THOSE SNAKES OF HERS...BRRR!



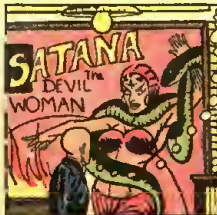
FLEKO WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ATTRACTIONS IN THE LAND...WHEREVER HE APPEARED THOUSANDS CAME TO LOOK AND WONDER! BUT FLEKO WAS SAD, FOR HIS LIFE WAS NOT COMPLETE...

MONEY...THAT'S WHAT I NEED! IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON ENOUGH DOUGH TO RETIRE...



BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE BROODED OVER HIS FLIGHT, FLEKO NEVER SEEMED ABLE TO SAVE ENOUGH TO ESCAPE FROM THE TWILIGHT WORLD OF CARNIVALS...

FREAKS...MISFITS...MONSTERS! THAT'S ALL I'M EVER SURROUNDED BY! MONEY COULD BUY MY FREEDOM...IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON A BIG BUNDLE!



I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING LOOKED AT AS IF I WAS...WHAT'S THIS? SATANA...MUST BE SOMEONE NEW TO THE SHOW! WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

WONDER WHAT HER TRICK IS! BAH! THEY'RE ALL FRAUDS HERE...ALL EXCEPT ME! AND JUST BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT THAN OTHER MEN, I'M CONSIDERED A FREAK LIKE THESE PHONIES!



S-SHE JUST GLARES WITH HER EYES...AND FIRE COMES OUTTA THAT EMPTY JAR! WOW!

THE THING



FOR YEARS FLECO HAD SEETHED WITH BITTERNESS AND FRUSTRATION. THEN, SUDDENLY, THAT SAME NIGHT HE FIRST SAW SATANA...

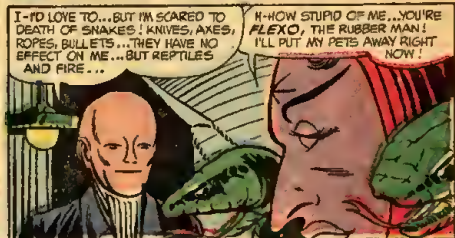
M-MUST BE A FORTUNE IN JEWELRY IN THAT CHEST! ENOUGH OF A STAKE FOR ME TO START A NEW LIFE! I'D LIKE TO BUST IN AND...BUT THOSE SNAKES OF HERS...! THERE MUST BE A WAY!

FLECO WENT BACK TO HIS TENT AND SCHEMED THROUGH THE NIGHT. THEN, AFTER THE NEXT EVENING'S PERFORMANCE WAS OVER...



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE LONELY... BEING NEW TO THE SHOW AND NOT HAVING ANY FRIENDS! THIS ISN'T MUCH...JUST MY WAY OF SAYING HELLO!

W-WHY, HOW NICE! WON'T YOU COME IN AND TALK?



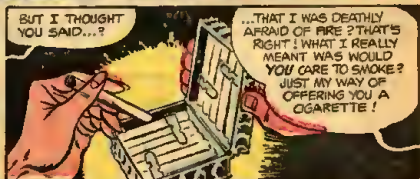
I-I'D LOVE TO...BUT I'M SCARED TO DEATH OF SNAKES! KNIVES, AXES, ROPES, BULLETS...THEY HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME...BUT REPTILES AND FIRE...

M-HOW STUPID OF ME...YOU'RE FLECO, THE RUBBER MAN! I'LL PUT MY PETS AWAY RIGHT NOW!



THERE...NOW THEY CAN'T BOTHER YOU! I'M REALLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE SOMEONE BRING ME FLOWERS AND CANDY...

I'VE BEEN LONESOME MYSELF, SATANA! I THINK WE CAN BECOME GREAT FRIENDS...MIND IF I SMOKE?



BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID...?

...THAT I WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF FIRE? THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT I REALLY MEANT WAS WOULD YOU CARE TO SMOKE? JUST MY WAY OF OFFERING YOU A CIGARETTE!

THROUGH NARROWED EYES, FLECO WATCHED AS SPIRALS OF BLUE SMOKE BEGAN TO FILL THE TENT...

QUITE A STUNT...LIGHTING A CIGARETTE BY WAVING YOUR HANDS AND GLARING AT IT! JUST A TRICK, I SUPPOSE...

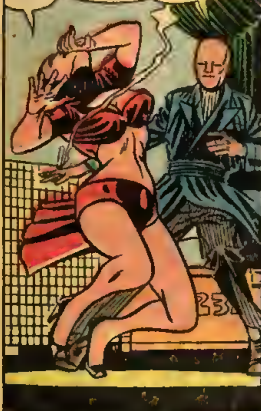
NOT AT ALL! I DO IT BY...M-MY! T-THIS TOBACCO...A PECULIAR ODOOR...



THE THING

I-I FEEL AS IF I'M ABOUT TO... TO FAINT...

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN **DRUGGED**, DEAR LADY! THE POWDER MIXED IN WITH THAT TOBACCO IS STRONG ENOUGH TO KNOCK YOU OUT FOR AN HOUR...MORE TIME THAN I NEED TO GET RID OF YOU!



COVERED BY DEEP SHADOWS, FLEKO CARRIED HIS SAGGING BURDEN AWAY FROM THE CARNIVAL CAMP...

IF I'D SPENT A YEAR PLANNING TO GET RID OF A BODY I COULDN'T DREAM UP A BETTER PLACE TO DITCH ANYONE THAN THIS ABANDONED STONE QUARRY! IN ANOTHER MOMENT ALL MY WORRIES'LL BE OVER!



FATE MUST'VE SMILED AT ME...SEING THIS RICH FOOL, AT THE VERY MOMENT THE SHOW ARRIVES HERE IN GRANTVILLE! EVEN IF THE BODY IS FOUND, IT'LL BE DECLARED AN ACCIDENT...



...AND I'LL BE GONE BY TOMORROW MORNING, ANYWAY! WITH THAT CHEST FULL OF GEMS! HEH HEH! MIGHTY CONSIDERATE OF HER TO LOCK UP THOSE SNAKES OF HERS... NOW THERE'S **NOTHING** TO STOP ME!



GO AHEAD AND SNARL AT ME, YOU LOUSY MONSTERS! WHEN THEY DISCOVER THAT SATANA'S GONE THEY'LL PROBABLY CUT YOU UP TO MAKE BELTS AND POCKET BOOKS! AND I... HEH HEH... WILL HAVE ESCAPED FROM THIS CRUMMY LIFE!

THE GEMS WERE PAWNED AND FLEKO VANISHED FROM SIGHT. FOR A YEAR HE LIVED IN A MAD WHIRL, THEN, INEVITABLY, HIS MONEY WAS GONE. BACK TO THE CARNIVAL HE WENT...BACK TO HIS OLD JOB AS A FREAK. AND THERE WAS ANOTHER VICTIM READY...



I-I... DIZZY... EVERYTHING SPINNING...

THE THING

THIS IS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...ALMOST AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF WHAT HAPPENED ONCE BEFORE! A GAL WITH MONEY...THE DRUGGED CIGARETTE...THE CARNY PLAYING THE SAME TOWN...THE BODY DUMPED INTO THE SAME QUARRY!



G-GOT TO CATCH MY BREATH... THIS GOON IS HEAVIER THAN THE OTHER ONE! I'LL PUSH HER OVER THE SIDE, RUN BACK TO CAMP AND PRY OPEN THAT MONEY BOX OF HERS, THEN...



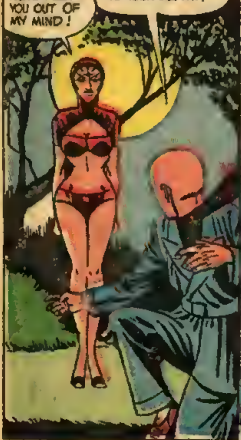
YOU'VE RETURNED FLEXXO...COME BACK TO THIS FATEFUL PLACE SO THAT I CAN HAVE MY AWFUL VENGEANCE!

W-WHO...? I...I'VE BEEN FOLLOWED!



EVER SINCE THAT GHOSTLY DAY YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWED. FLEXXO... I NEVER LET YOU OUT OF MY MIND!

G-GOOD GOD! IT CAN'T BE...SATANA! G-BUT...YOU DIED... WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW YOU PLUNGE TO YOUR DEATH!



S-SOMEHOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE...BUT THIS TIME I'LL FINISH THE JOB WITH MY BARE HANDS! YOU WON'T ESCAPE...N-NO... NO! MY SKIN!



I-I'M ON FIRE...BURNING UP! G-GOT TO RUN...GET AWAY... GOT TO...

AIEEEEE!



THE THING

THERE WAS A GHASTLY
SIZZLING SOUND, UP THERE
ON THE EDGE OF THE
ABANDONED QUARRY...
AND THE ACRID SMELL
OF BURNING RUBBER.
THEN, SUDDENLY,
THE FROG-FACED
GIRL STIRRED ...

W-WHAT HAPPENED? I..I
MUST HAVE
FAINTED...

ONE LOOK AT THE JAGGED QUARRY BELOW WAS ENOUGH TO JOLT THE GIRL BACK TO REALITY. A SCREECH PIERCED THE NIGHT SILENCE, AND MEN CAME RUNNING...

T-THAT NEW
PERFORMER-
THE RUBBER
MAN.... HE
MUST'VE
DRUGGED THE
CIGARETTE
HE GAVE ME!
NEXT THING I
KNEW I WAS
ERE...

EITHER YOU'VE
HAD A TERRIBLE
NIGHTMARE, AND
IT'S ALL A DREAM
OR HE PLANNED
TO THROW YOU
DOWN INTO THE
ROCKS!

THIS STUFF... FEELS GUMMY,
LIKE MELTED WAX! MEBBE
SOMEONE *DID* PLAN TO KILL
AQUATUS... ONLY HE SLID ON
THIS MESS AND FELL OVER
THE EDGE HIMSELF!

L-LOOK...
DOWN
THERE!

A...A BODY IN AMONG
THOSE JAGGED ROCKS! HE
MEANT TO MURDER
AQUATUS...AND DIED
HIMSELF! UGH! LET'S
GET OUTTA HERE...

THE FRIGHTENED ONLOOKERS PEERED INTO THE QUARRY,
THEN TURNED AND FLED IN FRIGHT!

DOWN BELOW, ON THE
MURDEROUS ROCKS WHERE
IT HAD PLUNGED A YEAR BEFORE,
SPRAWLED THE HALF-ROTTED CORPSE *The*
OF SATANA, THE DEVIL WOMAN! *Thing*

TUNNEL TO TERROR

There was a worried look on the face of John Harrison as he walked towards the shack that served as office for the Harrison Construction Company. He opened the door and entered, followed by Captain George Stuart of Homicide. The two men sat down at a table.

"I tell myself it just can't be," began John Harrison. "How can four men vanish in four days? Where are they? What happened? My men are getting scared, and I don't blame them. Just let this keep up, and they'll walk right off the job."

"There are several questions I would like to ask," replied the police officer. "Have you any enemies? Can you think of anyone who would profit by having the men off this particular job?"

John Harrison wrinkled his forehead, and he came right to the point with two definite answers.

"When you use the word enemies, then I must say that I haven't any. As a human being, I meet a lot of people and like some and dislike others. Guess the same goes for people who came into contact with me. But I just couldn't name a single man or woman and say that person is my enemy. Now for the other question. My company did not have any rivals for this job. We have a good labor group working with us, and they have been on most of my jobs before. I haven't a specific time clause in the contract to do this job because of its nature. Anything else you want to know?"

"Suppose you take me down to the bottom level and tell me about the nature of this work," demanded the police officer. "Maybe that will give us a clue. I have been in personal contact with the families of the missing men. They haven't any reason for the event taking place."

The two men left the shack and then walked over to an elevator. They entered it and went down for a distance of almost fifteen stories.

When the elevator stopped, the two men left it and walked along a boarded path. Electric lights were strung overhead.

"When completed, this will be the first garage of its type in the city," explained John Harrison. "On top there will be a playground for children. Instead of going up fifteen stories we were able to go down that distance. Seems that about a hundred years ago the south side of this section was sheer rock, but the east side was almost like a small valley. It was filled in with dirt and rocks to bring it up to an even level. That made excavation easy. Now right ahead of you is Tom Malley, in charge of the work down here. He checks every man in and out. The only way to get in or out of here is by using the elevator."

A stocky, middle-aged man came over to the two men and greeted his boss.

"Lau Martins," he began in a trembling voice, "is missing. I was going to call you on the phone. I stopped work, and we checked and double checked."

"Where was he last seen?" demanded the police officer. "If you can tell us that, then we can begin a search right now."

"He was working with Joe Ginty; they were pouring concrete. Came on, and we'll speak to Joe. He's all upset."

Joe Ginty was trembling as he looked at the men around him. He opened his mouth to speak and then stopped. He gasped for his breath, and finally the words came past his lips.

"Right here we were working. I was telling Lau that this Sunday we would go fishing with my brother-in-law. He just bought a boat at the exposition, a swell thirty-footer. Lau tells me it is a good idea, then he steps in the middle of a sentence. I turn around. Right here Na Lau! Where did he go? Tell me that!"

Captain George Stuart looked directly at the rock that was in back of them. He picked up a hammer and tapped the rock. Then something

THE THING

startling happened. An entire section caved in, and there was exposed before their eyes a small tunnel.

"Get some lamps boys," shouted John Harrison. "Maybe the men are inside here. We'll take a look."

Five minutes later a small party, headed by the police officer, began to walk along a damp path. They hadn't gone more than two hundred feet, when they stopped in horror. Lined up against both sides of the tunnel were five corpses. You could see the agony on each man's face. The police officer looked carefully at each man and felt the face and neck.

"Broken neck," he said. "Something powerful hit each of these men. Well, whatever it is or was, that thing must be right around here. Maybe it is watching us now. This tunnel goes some place. Smartest thing we can do is follow it. I'll keep my gun in my hand just in case we run into this thing."

Onward the men walked, and the tunnel got larger and larger, until it seemed they were in something resembling a big underground hall or room.

"Look at the wall," shouted Tom Malley. "There's something that looks white and maybe like a person going up and down."

"I have a gun in my hand," announced the police officer. "And unless you came right here and surrender, I will shoot you." Closer and closer it came, and then suddenly Tom Malley gave an unearthly yell. It was all over in a second. His limp body fell to the floor. The police officer fired three times at the creature, but the bullets had no effect. They picked up Tom Malley, and there was no need to examine him to realize his neck was broken and he was dead.

"We better get out of here," suggested John Harrison, "or that creature will kill all of us. I don't know what it is. But whatever that thing is, one thing is certain. It isn't human."

"Suppose we go back and then return with a heavily armed police group," added Captain Stuart. "My bullets had no effect on it."

The men retraced their steps, and then suddenly the path on which they were walking began to sink. Down and down they went, until it seemed as though there was no end. They weren't hurt, and when they arose, they looked up. Fortunately their lights were not damaged.

"Looks like the bottom fell down," said Joe Ginty. "Look up and you can see where we were before."

But Captain George Stuart was busy with

something else. His light had fallen upon a slab which definitely marked a grave. He tried his best to read what was written on it. He bit his lips as though he were totally unsatisfied. A shout from above told them that other men had entered the tunnel.

"We'll get some ropes and get you out of there," said a voice above. "We just saw the bodies."

An hour later all the men were out of the tunnel. The bodies had been removed, and the men working on the excavation sent home for the day. Specialists from the Crime Laboratory took over and looked for some clue. A group of heavily armed policemen again went into the tunnel. They came up against a dead end and returned.

"I don't think we'll ever find out what really happened," said John Harrison. "If the police have no objection, we can seal up that wall and tunnel."

"Can't think of any legal reason why you can't do it," replied Captain George Stuart. "Maybe whatever the thing was, it will no longer trouble you and your men."

The new type garage was finished on time. There was a big celebration, with the mayor and the governor making speeches. John Harrison saw the police officer there and went to talk to him.

"Did you find out about the name on that tombstone, and did it give you a clue?"

The police officer stroked his chin, as though he wanted to stall for time. Maybe no answer would be demanded. He changed his mind.

"It took a lot of reading in old records to find an answer," he said. "And maybe the answer isn't an answer. This is the year 1954. Three hundred years ago a woman was hung as a witch and buried in that grave. She said that she really was a witch. She would return in three centuries and claim five human beings as a sacrifice. So, you can say it was the ghostly spirit of a hung witch who returned to keep a promise. Maybe it would have been better if she had never returned."

The police officer started to walk away when a question struck the mind of John Harrison. Perhaps it was only natural. Maybe he should never have asked it.

"The name of that witch? You forgot to mention her name."

"Mary Jane Harrison, the wife of Robert Harrison and you are the last descendant of that family."

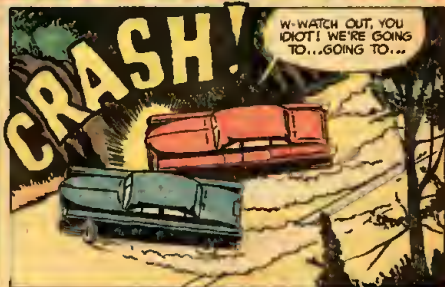
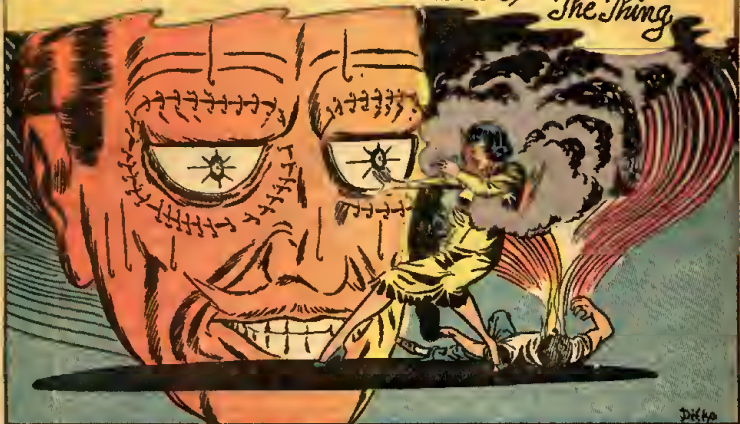
The End

THE THING

EVER BEEN DRIVEN BLIND WITH FURY...SO INSANELY BLIND THAT YOU PRAYED FOR THE CHANCE TO MURDER? IF NOT, THIS GRUESOME TALE SHOULD PROVE BOTH DIVERTING AND EDUCATIONAL, FOR IT OUTLINES WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU...

IF LOOKS COULD KILL!

AS TOLD BY *The Thing*



THE THING

ARE YOU TWO INSANE? I'VE HALF
A MIND TO BEAT YOU WITHIN AN
HOUR OF YOUR LIVES!

NO NEED TO
TOUCH HIM, BRUMBY! THERE'S
A MUCH EASIER WAY TO SUB-
DUCE THE GOOD DOCTOR!



YOU...I'VE SEEN
YOU BEFORE!
YOU'RE...OF
COURSE!
THAT HALF-
BAKED
HYPNOTIST
WHO...I-
I FEEL
FAINT!

JUST
RELAX,
DR. SAVAGE
...LET
YOUR MIND
REST...
REST...



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
YOU DO IT,
MERLIN!
ONE LOOK
OUTA THEM
EYES OF
YOURS, AND
THEY'RE
ALL LIKE
PUTTY!
WHAT'S
YOUR
SECRET,
HUH?

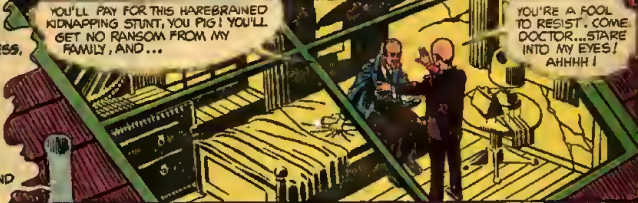
A POWER
YOU
WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND,
BRUMBY!
HURRY...
INTO THE
CAR WITH
HIM! AS
SOON AS
WE GET
TO THE
HOUSE WE
CAN PUT
OUR PLAN
INTO
ACTION!



SLOWLY DR.
SAVAGE
REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS,
AND FOUND
HIMSELF
SLUMPED
ON A CRUDE
BED IN AN
OMINOUS
DARKENED
ROOM. HE
LOOKED UP
GROGGILY, AND
SAW...

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS HAREBRAINED
KIDNAPPING STUNT, YOU PIG! YOU'LL
GET NO RANSOM FROM MY
FAMILY, AND...

YOU'RE A FOOL
TO RESIST. COME
DOCTOR...STARE
INTO MY EYES!
AHHHH!



I COULD DO A NEAT JOB OF TOR-
TURING YOU WITH YOUR OWN IN-
STRUMENTS IN THE BAG ON THE
TABLE...BUT I PREFER MY OWN
PECULIAR METHODS! STARE AT
ME, SAVAGE...LOOK DEEP INTO
MY EYES!



AS THE DOCTOR STARED AT THE UNEARTH-
LY ORBS GLITTERING FIERCELY AT HIM, A
GROTESQUE **THING** OCCURRED...

M-MY EYES...THEY'VE BEEN
BURNT TO CINDERS! I...I'VE
BEEN **BLINDED**.....

AIEEEEE!



THE THING



YOU WIZENED DEVIL... I'LL DESTROY YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!

5- STAY AWAY FROM DOCTOR! YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN MY STRANGE POWERS... DON'T MAKE ME RESORT TO... STAY AWAY!



I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH Y-YOU.... RELEASE YOU IF... ANGH!

YOU BLINDED ME, YOU LOUSY MONSTER! NOW YOU'LL DIE... DIE!

THE SURGEON'S STRONG HANDS TIGHTENED RELENTLESSLY AROUND THE SCRAWNY NECK. FOR A MOMENT AFTER HE RELAXED HIS DEADLY GRIP, THE HYPNOTIST'S BODY WRITHED IN A DEATH SPASM. THEN...

SOMEHOW HE TOOK MY EYESIGHT... SO I ROBBED HIM OF LIFE! THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT... I-I MUST HURRY! MY SCALPEL... I NEED A CUTTING INSTRUMENT!



AN EYE FOR AN EYE, THEY SAY... HIS FOR MINE! THE NERVES ARE STILL ALIVE... NO TIME TO LOSE! I'VE NEVER WORKED BLIND BEFORE, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

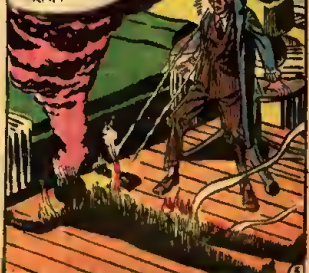


WITH FINGERS SKILLED BY COUNTLESS DANGEROUS OPERATIONS, THE SURGEON SHOULISHLY TRANSPLANTS THE DEAD HYPNOTIST'S EYES INTO HIS OWN...

ONE OF HIS EYES IN PLACE AND... AND I CAN SEE! THE OTHER ONE... ALMOST STITCHED TIGHT... THERE!



I DON'T KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE STRANGE POWER THAT DEVIL POSSESSED, BUT... 6000 LORD! THESE EYES... THEY CAN TURN ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH TO CINDERS! LIKE SOME KIND OF POWERFUL AND DEADLY RAY!



THE THING

THESE EYES CAN HELP ME TO...THE DOOR

I CALLED THIS JERK'S WIFE, MERLIN...SHE'S GONNA POWOW WITH THE REST OF THE FAMILY TO RAISE THE RANSOM MONEY! WE CAN EXPECT A VISIT PRETTY SOON!



H-HEY, YOU'RE NOT MERLIN...YOU K-KILLED 'IM! AWRIGHT, BUSTER... THIS IS THE END FOR YOU!

STAY AWAY, YOU STUPID APE... I-I WARN YOU!



I'LL SLAUGHTER YOU FOR CROAKING MY PAL...

YUUUUUU!

I-IT WORKS! ANYTHING I CONCENTRATE MY GAZE ON...TURNS TO ASHES! HIS HAND...AS IF HE PLUNGED IT INTO A WHITE-HOT FURNACE!



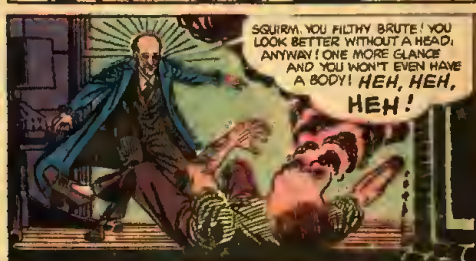
THIS POWER OF MINE IS FANTASTIC! I CAN DESTROY ANYTHING I CHOOSE MERELY BY LOOKING AT IT! LIKE THIS GORILLA'S UGLY FACE...

S-STOP LOOKING AT ME... P-PLEASE! I-I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY...

AIEEE!



SQUIRM, YOU FILTHY BRUTE! YOU LOOK BETTER WITHOUT A HEAD, ANYWAY! ONE MORE GLANCE AND YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE A BODY! HEH, HEH, HEH!



BUT BEFORE DR. SAVAGE COULD TURN HIS GROTESQUE GAZE ON HIS SQUIRMING VICTIM...

YOUR SECONDS ARE NUMBERED...NO ONE CAN EXIST WITHOUT A BRAIN! BUT I'LL JUST AMUSE MYSELF BY...WHAT'S THAT? SOMEONE AT THE DOOR! OPENING IT...COMING UP THE STAIRS...



THE THING

MERLIN...BRUMBY...WHERE ARE YOU? EVERYTHING'S SET FOR THE BIG CLEAN-UP! IN ANOTHER HOUR WE'LL HAVE THE CASH! THEN WE CAN ALL MAKE TRACKS! THEY WON'T FIND THE BODY FOR WEEKS...BY THAT TIME WE'LL BE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HERE!



HIS FAMILY'LL NEVER KNOW THAT THE BIG JERK'S OWN WIFE WAS THE ONE WHO PUT THE FINGER ON HIM! THIS'LL TEACH HIM TO BE SO STINGY WITH HIS FORTUNE...**G-GUSTAVE!** HOW...HOW DID YOU...?

YOUR PRETTY SPEECH WAS EXTREMELY REVEALING MY DEAREST!



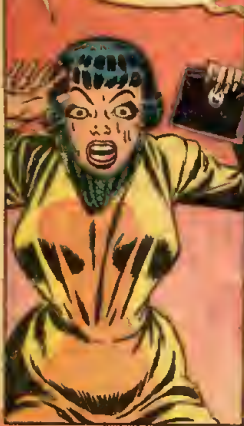
Y-YOU... THOSE EYES... IT...IT CAN'T BE!



SO YOU WERE BEHIND THIS WHOLE FILTHY KIDNAPPING, EH? THIS IS MY REPAYMENT FOR PICKING YOU UP OUT OF THE GUTTER, MARRYING YOU AND MAKING A LADY OUT OF YOU, IS IT?

P-PLEASE, GUSTAVE... HAVE MERCY! DON'T...

YOU WERE HEARTLESS ENOUGH TO BETRAY YOUR OWN HUSBAND TO THESE DEPRAVED CRIMINALS...NOW YOU SHALL BE TRULY HEARTLESS!



DIE, YOU WORTHLESS, TREACHEROUS WORM...**DIE!**

AAIEEE



NO ONE HAS EVER POSSESSED SUCH ENORMOUS POWER AS I HAVE AT THIS MOMENT! **HEH, HEH, HEH!** I'M FREE TO EXACT VENGEANCE ON THE FOOLS WHO HAVE CROSSED ME...DR. CRESS WILL BE NEXT! **HEH, HEEEEEEEE!**



THE THING

THAT INSULTING YOUNG MEDICAL ASSISTANT MUST GO...AND THE HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT! EVERYONE I'VE EVER FOUND ANNOYING WILL BE BURNT TO ASHES...THEY'LL SOON LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HATED BY DR. GUSTAVE SAVAGE! **HEH! HEH!**

HEH!



GOODBYE, IDIOTS! THE WORMS WILL SOON BE CRAWLING THROUGH YOUR MISERABLE REMAINS, WHILE I... THAT... **MIRROR!** FELL OUT OF ANITA'S PURSE! I MUST SEE WHAT MY NEW EYES LOOK LIKE!



I WAS THE GREATEST SURGEON WHO EVER LIVED, BEFORE THAT SLIMY LITTLE HYPNOTIST ROBBED ME OF MY SIGHT! NOW I MUST SEE WHAT THE GREATEST MAN IN ALL HISTORY LOOKS LIKE! FOR THAT'S WHAT I'LL SOON BE...NO ONE CAN STAND IN MY WAY AND LIVE!

THOSE EYES MAY NOT BE THE PRETTIEST... **GOOD GOD!** I'M GROWING FAINT...THOSE HORRIBLE EYES...BLINDING ME...BURNING... **BURNING!**



N-NO...**NO!** THAT DAZZLING, BUNDING RADIANCE... THAT AGONIZING HEAT...LIKE A WHITE-HOT BLOW-TORCH TURNED ON ME! I...I...

ARGHHHHH!



A SHRIEK OF AGONY BURST FROM DR. GUSTAVE SAVAGE'S SEARED LIPS, AS HE SAGGED LIFELESSLY TO THE FLOOR. A MOMENT LATER, THE MIRROR VANISHED...IN AN EERIE PUFF OF DEADLY SMOKE!



A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE, YOU SAY? **AYE!** BUT... **HEE HEE HEE!**...YOU'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN WITH OWN YOU-KNOW-WHAT, HAVEN'T YOU?

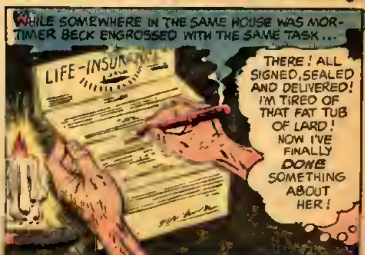
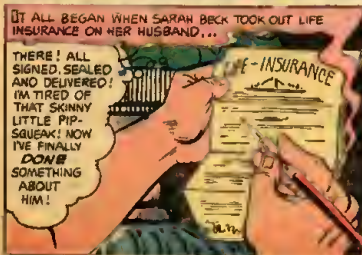
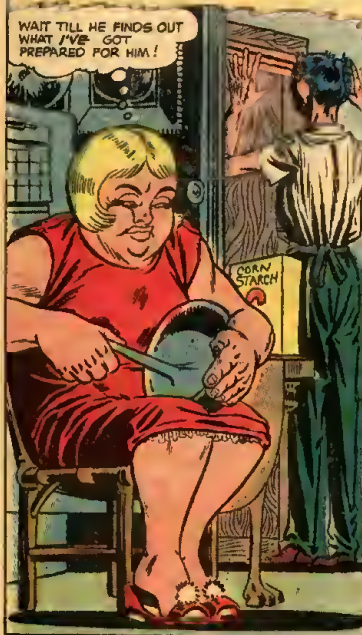
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THE THING

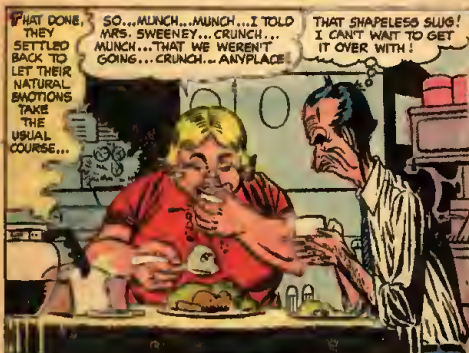
THIS IS THE STORY OF A MAN AND A WIFE WHO LOVED EACH OTHER TO DEATH! FIRST THEY BEGAN BY TAKING OUT INSURANCE ON EACH OTHER... THEN THEY BOTH GOT NIGHTMARES, AND FINALLY--WELL... READ ON --- AND YOU'LL SEE THIS LITTLE...

FAMILY MIXUP

AS TOLD BY *The Thing*



THE THING



THE THING

BUT NIGHT BROUGHT A NIGHTMARE TO SARAH...



WHILE MORT HAD A DIFFERENT NIGHTMARE...

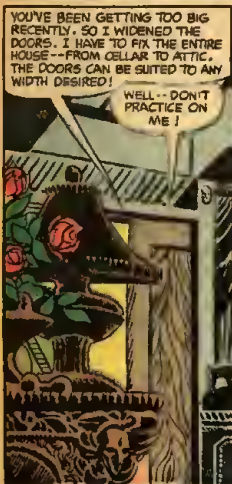


THE THING



GET ME OUT, YOU FOOL! YOU STUPID NITWIT! YOU OAF!

ALL RIGHT-- ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR! HAVE PATIENCE!



YOU'VE BEEN GETTING TOO BIG RECENTLY, SO I WIDENED THE DOORS. I HAVE TO FIX THE ENTIRE HOUSE--FROM CELLAR TO ATTIC. THE DOORS CAN BE SUITED TO ANY WIDTH DESIRED!

WELL-- DON'T PRACTICE ON ME!

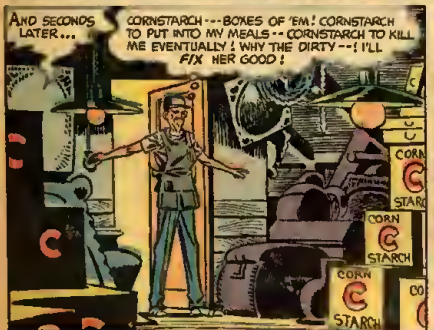


A FEW HOURS LATER, IT WAS MORT'S TURN TO BE SUSPICIOUS...

SAY--WHAT IS SHE GOING UP TO THE ATTIC FOR? I'LL WAIT AND SEE!



WHUPS! BETTER DUCK BACK IN HERE UNTIL SHE'S OUT OF THE WAY! WONDER WHAT THE BOX IS--MAYBE THERE'S MORE UP THERE!



AND SECONDS LATER...

CORNSTARCH---BOXES OF 'EM! CORNSTARCH TO PUT INTO MY MEALS-- CORNSTARCH TO KILL ME EVENTUALLY! WHY THE DIRTY--! I'LL FIX HER GOOD!



SO BOTH OF THEM WENT TO BED THAT NIGHT, CONVINCED COMPLETELY...

YOU TOO, HONEY.

GOODNIGHT, DEAR SLEEP TIGHT! TOMORROW

IT'LL BE TOMORROW FOR YOU!

THE THING

AND TOMORROW WAS THE DAY! WHEN SARAH AWOKE...

WHA---T ? I---I'M
STRAPPED DOWN!
MORT--W-WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO DO ?
ANSWER ME !

THIS IS A RUBBER HOSE ,MY
DEAR. I'M GOING TO STICK
IT DOWN YOUR THROAT!

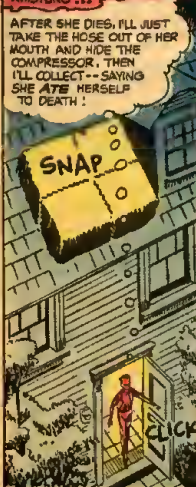


NO USE TRYING TO SCREAM, MY DEAR.
THE HOSE WILL PREVENT THAT. THIS IS
AN AIR COMPRESSOR, HONEY. IT
PUMPS AIR INTO THAT HOSE. THE
AIR GOES DOWN YOUR THROAT!
THEN IT HITS YOUR STOMACH
AND SWELLS IT--BIGGER--
BIGGER--UNTIL YOU
BURST ! YES, MY
DEAR---YOU'RE
GOING TO DIE JUST
AS YOU LIVED ---
BY BEING BLOATED
TO DEATH !
HA, HA.



LEAVING HIS WIFE TO HER FATE,
MORT BECK STEPPED OUTSIDE,
WHISTLING ...

AFTER SHE DIES, I'LL JUST
TAKE THE HOSE OUT OF HER
MOUTH AND HIDE THE
COMPRESSOR, THEN
I'LL COLLECT--SAYING
SHE ATE HERSELF
TO DEATH !



BUT SARAH HAD GONE TO THE ATTIC --
NOT FOR CORNSTARCH--BUT TO FIX
THE STONE SLAB SO IT COULD TOPPLE
DOWN THE MOMENT SOMEONE STEPPED
THROUGH THE DOOR-- SOMEONE LIKE MORT,
WHO WOULD GO TO WORK EARLY THAT
NEXT MORNING--- SO MORT BECK WAS
MADE EVEN SKINNIER BY THE
CRUSHING WEIGHT! AND NOW NEITHER
ONE WOULD COLLECT IN THIS FAMILY
MIXUP! HEH, HEH, HEH...!





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20 First Class Illusions

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MAGIC MIRROR—Spectators will be amazed. With it you read cards, without even looking at them.



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Now the top secrets of 20 professional magic tricks are yours to entertain and amaze your friends and make you popular. With this outfit you get 20 exclusive tricks and the secret knowledge of how to easily perform them all for only \$1.00.

You Alone Will Know These Revealing Secrets

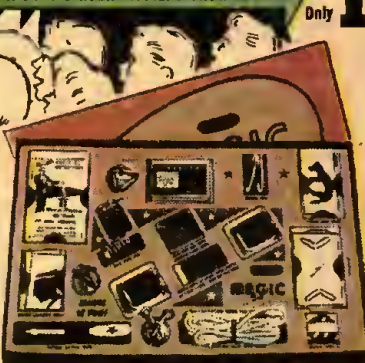
Imagine, by just waving your magic wand and shouting a few magic words you will be able to make things disappear and reappear... imagine your friends and mother and dad all being fooled, surprised and amazed. You'll hold them spell-bound. They will just sit open mouthed with wonderment. They'll be delighted for it's a barrel of fun for everyone. It's so fascinating and thrilling... BUT... the hidden secrets will be yours, never to reveal. Follow the simple directions and no one will ever catch on.

No Experience Necessary

The illustrated instructions furnished are so simple you will master all these tricks at once. It's fun practicing too... for here you have a short cut to magic learning that starts you doing tricks right away. You can't go wrong... It's as easy as A, B, C's... AND... the set of 20 exclusive tricks is almost a gift at this limited after price of \$1.00.

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FAMOUS PADDLE TRICK
RING ON STRING
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RING AND COIL
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MAGIC MIRROR

HORSE AND RIDER
CHINESE LAUNDRY TICKET
MIRACLE COIN TRICK
QUESTION MARK
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TWISTER TRICK
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